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preparation for this work which he received in childhood. He tells us, in Shakespeare's Scholar, that no annotated edition of Shakespeare was in his father's house, and that he read the plays in which he so delighted from a copy of Mr. Singer's small Chiswick edition, in one volume. Not until he chanced upon an annotated copy in a classmate's room, during his Freshman year, did he learn the existence of those difficulties which unconsciously, with the freshness of a new mind, and by simple study of the text, he had already overcome in part, and from which he had unawares learned how to grapple with such obstacles. He was thus saved from receiving, out of mere reverence for the name of their authors, those inanities which have been fastened upon the great poet's works for hardly any other reason. He had learned to look for Shakespeare's meaning in the words of Shakespeare, not in the notes of Johnson, Pope, or Malone.

The Introductions to the Plays are excellent. The same quickness which amends the text of "Measure for Measure" so neatly, finds in the play a passage which conclusively settles the time in which the scene is laid. The explanation is so clear, that it is strange that the English scholars have overlooked it. These Introductions contain, not only the last word which has been uttered and the last fact discovered about their subject, but contain much that is wholly new, and the result of Mr. White's own thought.

ART. XI. — CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. — *Sir Walter Raleigh and his Time. With Other Papers.* By CHARLES KINGSLEY. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1859. pp. 461.

THIS volume consists of articles which have already appeared, with one or two exceptions, in the pages of Fraser's Magazine and the North British Review. They are upon various subjects, and form a valuable collection, embodying much general information, and marked with all the merits of style familiar to the readers of Mr. Kingsley's

works. As a critic, he is genial and appreciative in his praise, clear and decided in his disapprobation. He makes his readers feel that he has looked deeply into the subject he discusses, and, as a necessary consequence, we are inclined to give faith to his conclusions. He touches upon the grounds of all true criticism, as on those of all true authorship, when he says, in the last article of the present series: "If a man has no affection for the characters of whom he reads, he will never understand them; if he has no respect for his subject, he will never take the trouble to exhaust it." Mr. Kingsley's articles give evidence that they have not been hastily or carelessly prepared, and when he does not rise into the chastened enthusiasm with which he grows eloquent over a subject or a person near his heart, he at least offers us a calm and thorough *résumé* of his authorities and his reasonings.

The article on Raleigh is an admirably drawn summary of the prominent events in Sir Walter's life, with their effect upon his character, through which Kingsley's own reverent and kindly nature is continually revealing itself. His sympathy with the noble heart of which he writes glows on every page.

With regard to Tennyson, he kindles into a warmth of enthusiasm which few readers will consider disproportionate to his subject, and shows us the pleasant spectacle of the thorough and hearty admiration of one man of genius for another. We see that it is not only delightful to the critic himself to have for his subject an author whom he ardently admires, but that it is equally satisfactory to the reader to peruse an article thus written.

The article on "North Devon" commences with a curt and somewhat irate notice of "Exmoor, or the Footsteps of St. Hubert in the West"; and after a page or two of pungent indignation at the author and his performance, Mr. Kingsley himself takes up the office of guide, and with his and our old friend, Claude Mellot, the artist, shows us the beauties of North Devon in a series of chapters written with all his peculiar freshness of description and loving interest in the details of picturesque rural scenery.

"Alexandria and her Schools" embraces four lectures delivered by the author some time since. They set before us clearly and fully his research and study on subjects which are shadowed forth to us in "Hypatia," a work remarkable not only for its graphic power and its dramatic movement, but for the proof it gave of its author's complete conversance with the deeper and more abstruse connections of the theme and the era he had chosen.

As a whole, the volume before us exhibits the depth and earnestness of the author's student-nature, as well as the versatility and flexibility of

his intellectual power and the freshness and vigor of his perceptions. We are glad to see this collection thus arranged, and placed before the American public.

2. — *Legends and Lyrics. A Book of Verses.* By ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1858. pp. 264.

OF the poems in this little volume, many had been previously published in the English magazines. Their author, the daughter of Barry Cornwall, inherits much of the poetical talent of her father, and her productions are marked with the same inequality perceptible in his. Many of her pieces, especially the shorter and more impulsive, are full of pathos and sweetness, original in idea and graceful in execution; and linger in the memory long after we have turned over the leaf. Others are dull, and fail to invite a second perusal. This is a fault, however, almost inevitable in a studied collection of minor poems, since many are doubtless allowed place for the purpose of swelling the volume to the requisite size, and perhaps stand even lower in the estimation of the author than in that of the reader. The number of Miss Procter's poems, however, which attain to a positive degree of merit, is quite large enough to give to her book a pleasant tone, and to render it an agreeable addition to the stock of modern poetry.

3. — *A Woman's Thoughts about Women.* By the Author of "John Halifax, Gentleman." New York: Rudd and Carleton. 1858.

THESE "Thoughts" are thrown together in quite an attractive form, and are replete with good sense and calm reflection. Without saying anything marvellously original, — an achievement, by the way, almost impossible upon this much-bewritten subject, — the author has arranged a series of chapters which amply repay perusal, and which place before the reader in tangible and debatable propositions many of the ideas which have, hitherto, probably only floated across his mind at intervals. Somewhat conservative in tone, she abjures all sympathy with the ultra advocates of woman's rights, while at the same time, as in the chapter entitled "Lost Women," and in allusions scattered throughout the volume, she offers several sensible and practical suggestions to those who wish to open a wider sphere of action and a more generous charity to the poorer and more neglected portion of the sex. The genial sympathy with humanity which pervades the other works of the author is equally apparent in this healthful and kindly volume, and a simple